

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

September 22, 2021

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Mike Kelly (Secretary) (@8:39), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), John Kannard (UWEX Member), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep) (@8:33), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; and Marisa Ulman, LWCD.

- Others in Attendance: Frankie Fuller (via Zoom), Anita Martin, Dean Weichmann

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of the September Agenda:

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the August 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the August 18, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection September 2021 Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cicero discussed the NRCS report submitted by NRCS District Conservationist, David Gundlach.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD staff attended the department's 2022 Budget Hearing, a new Resource Conservationist will be joining LWCD on 9/27/2021, and the Department of Natural Resources hired a new lake biologist for this region.

10. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders and Rock River Regenerative Grazers:

Jurcek reported the Rock River Regenerative Grazers will be submitting a Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant application to DACTP. Weichmann reported the Jefferson County Soil Builders will be submitting a Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant application to DACTP. Jurcek and Weichmann will be liaisons for each group and work together to accomplish project goals.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Serving as Fiscal Agent and Collaborator for Producer-Led Groups:

Jurcek informed the Committee that Glacierland RC&D is going to be the fiscal agent for Rock River Regenerative Grazers.

Jurcek made a motion to have LWCD serve as fiscal agent and collaborator for Jefferson County Soil Builders producer-led group and collaborator for Rock River Regenerative Grazers producer-led group, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Healthy Lakes Grant:** Ulman outlined the Healthy Lakes Grant. Kannard made a motion to send the resolution for the Healthy Lakes Grant to the County Board, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a WI DNR Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant:** Cicero outlined the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant. Christensen made a motion to send the resolution for the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant to the County Board, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.
- 14. Discussion on Invasive Plant Management Assistance to the Highway Department:** Ulman discussed collaborative efforts between LWCD and the Highway Department on invasive plant management. Ulman will be working with the WI Department of Transportation to develop an educational workshop for local highway and parks departments. Ulman has been asked to give a presentation on partnering with highway departments to manage invasive plants at the fall statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership Program meeting.
- 15. Discussion and Possible Action on Transfer of Nutrient Management Cost Share Funds to Forest County:** Burlingham made a motion to transfer the remaining unused nutrient management cost share funds to Forest County, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):** There were no notices.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:** There were no cancellations.
- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** Kokkonen discussed the Hausz application. The property appraisal came back lower than Hausz anticipated and the application has been put on hold.
- 19. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (July):** The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
- 20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:** Possible agenda items include: A Memorandum of Understanding with Jefferson County Soil Builders, an introduction of the new LWCD staff member
 - **Next Scheduled Meeting:** October 20, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 202
- 21. Adjournment:** Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 am, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD